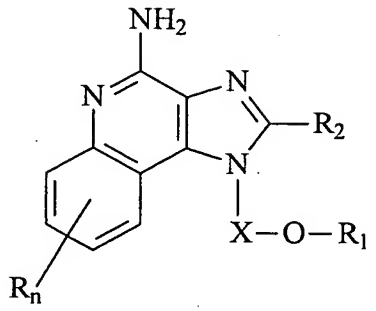
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of the formula (I):



(I)

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_5-$, $-CHR_5$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_5$-alkenyl-;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$alkyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$alkenyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$aryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$heteroaryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$heterocyclyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_7$;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-$alkyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-$alkenyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-$aryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-$heteroaryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-$heterocyclyl; and

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NH_2$;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

-alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_5)_2$;

-CO-$N(R_5)_2$;

-CO-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-CO-O-C_{1-10} alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

Y is -O- or -$S(O)_{0-2}$-;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ is H, C_{1-10} alkyl, or arylalkyl;

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is alkyl or alkenyl, which may be interrupted by one or more –O– groups; or R_3 and R_4 can join together to form a ring;

each $\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently H, C_{1-10} alkyl, or C_{2-10} alkenyl;

$\mathbf{R_6}$ is a bond, alkyl, or alkenyl, which may be interrupted by one or more -O- groups;

$\mathbf{R_7}$ is C_{1-10} alkyl; or R_3 and R_7 can join together to form a ring;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein X is –CH(alkyl)-alkyl– , wherein the alkyl groups can be the same or different.

3. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein X is $–CH_2–CH_2–$.

4. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein X is $–CH(C_2H_5)-CH_2–$.

5. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_2 is H.

6. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_2 is alkyl.

7. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_2 is –alkyl–O–alkyl.

8. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_3 and R_4 join to form a heterocyclic ring.

9. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein R_1 is $–R_4–NR_3–SO_2–R_6–$aryl.

10. A compound or salt of claim 1 wherein n is o.

11. A compound selected from the group consisting of:
N-(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)methanesulfonamide;
N-(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)methanesulfonamide;
N-(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)-*N*-methylmethanesulfonamide;
N-(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)-*N*-methylmethanesulfonamide;
2-butyl-1-{2-[2-(1,1-dioxidoisothiazolidin-2-yl)ethoxy]ethyl}-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-4-amine; and

N-[10-(4-amino-2-methyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl)-4,7-dioxadecyl]-5-dimethylaminonaphthalene-1-sulfonamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-(2-{2-[4-amino-2-(2-methoxyethyl)-1H-imidazo[4, 5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl]ethoxy}ethyl)-N-methylpropane-2-sulfonamide;

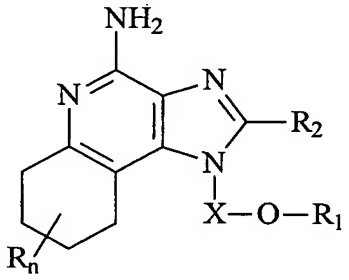
N-{2-[2-(4-amino-2-ethyl-1H-imidazo[4, 5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl) ethoxy]ethyl}methanesulfonamide;

N-{2-[2-(4-amino-2-methyl-1H-imidazo[4, 5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl) ethoxy]ethyl}methanesulfonamide; and

N-{2-[2-(4-amino-2-methyl-1H-imidazo[4, 5-*c*]quinolin-1-yl) ethoxy]ethyl}propane-2-sulfonamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. A compound of the formula (II)



(II)

wherein: **X** is $-CHR_5-$, $-CHR_5$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_5$-alkenyl-;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

$-R_4—NR_3—SO_2—R_6—$alkyl;

$-R_4—NR_3—SO_2—R_6—$alkenyl;

$-R_4–NR_3–SO_2–R_6–$aryl;

$-R_4–NR_3–SO_2–R_6–$heteroaryl;

$-R_4–NR_3–SO_2–R_6–$heterocyclyl;

-R_4—NR_3—SO_2—R_7;

-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-alkyl;

-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-alkenyl;

-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-aryl;

-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-heteroaryl;

-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6-heterocyclyl; and

-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NH_2;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

-alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_5)_2$;

-CO-$N(R_5)_2$;

-CO-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-CO-O-$C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

Y is -O- or -$S(O)_{0-2}$-;
$\mathbf{R_3}$ is H, C_{1-10} alkyl, or arylalkyl;
$\mathbf{R_4}$ is alkyl or alkenyl, which may be interrupted by one or more –O– groups; or R_3 and R_4 can join together to form a ring;
each $\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently H, C_{1-10} alkyl, or C_{2-10} alkenyl;
$\mathbf{R_6}$ is a bond, alkyl, or alkenyl, which may be interrupted by one or more -O- groups;
$\mathbf{R_7}$ is C_{1-10} alkyl; or R_3 and R_7 can join together to form a ring;
n is 0 to 4; and
each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of C_{1-10} alkyl, C_{1-10} alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, and trifluoromethyl;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. A compound or salt of claim 13 wherein R_2 is H or alkyl.

15. A compound or salt of claim 13 wherein R_2 is –alkyl–O–alkyl.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

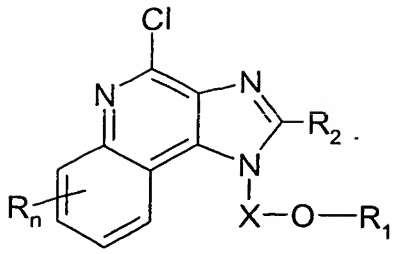
17. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 to the animal.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

19. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 to the animal.

20. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 1 to the animal.

21. A compound of the formula (III):



(III)

wherein **X** is $-CHR_5-$, $-CHR_5$-alkyl-, or $-CHR_5$-alkenyl-;

$\mathbf{R_1}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$alkyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$alkenyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$aryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$heteroaryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_6-$heterocyclyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-R_7$;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6$-alkyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6$-alkenyl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6$-aryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6$-heteroaryl;

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NR_5-R_6$-heterocyclyl; and

$-R_4-NR_3-SO_2-NH_2$;

$\mathbf{R_2}$ is selected from the group consisting of:

-hydrogen;

-alkyl;

-alkenyl;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-alkyl-Y-alkyl;

-alkyl-Y- alkenyl;

-alkyl-Y-aryl; and

- alkyl or alkenyl substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of:

-OH;

-halogen;

-$N(R_5)_2$;

-$CO\text{-}N(R_5)_2$;

-$CO\text{-}C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-$CO\text{-}O\text{-}C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl;

-N_3;

-aryl;

-heteroaryl;

-heterocyclyl;

-CO-aryl; and

-CO-heteroaryl;

Y is -O- or -$S(O)_{0\text{-}2}$-;

$\mathbf{R_3}$ is H, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, or arylalkyl;

$\mathbf{R_4}$ is alkyl or alkenyl, which may be interrupted by one or more –O– groups; or R_4 and R_3 can join to form a ring;

each $\mathbf{R_5}$ is independently H, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, or $C_{2\text{-}10}$ alkenyl;

$\mathbf{R_6}$ is a bond, or is alkyl or alkenyl, which may be interrupted by one or more -O- groups;

$\mathbf{R_7}$ is $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl; or R_3 and R_7 can join together to form a ring;

n is 0 to 4; and

each **R** present is independently selected from the group consisting of $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen and trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

23. A method of inducing cytokine biosynthesis in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 13 to the animal.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the cytokine is IFN-α.

25. A method of treating a viral disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 13 to the animal.

26. A method of treating a neoplastic disease in an animal comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt of claim 13 to the animal.